

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) In a washing machine including a cabinet having a first opening through which laundry is put in on a cabinet front side, a tub having a second opening at a tub front side, and a drum rotatably installed in the tub to have a third opening at a drum front side, a gasket comprising:

a leakage preventing part having one end connected to a rim of the first opening and the other end connected to a rim of the second opening to prevent water leakage wherein a portion between the one and the other ends of the leakage preventing part is bent to prevent shocks by vibrations of the tub and drum from appearing on the cabinet, the leakage preventing part including:

a first connecting member having one end connected to the first opening to horizontally extend toward the tub;

a second connecting member having one end connected to the other end of the first connecting member to radially extend toward the cabinet front side; and

a third connecting member having one end connected to the other end of the second connecting member and having the other end connected to the second opening;

a deformation preventing part connected to the leakage preventing part to reinforce a strength of the leakage preventing part and to prevent deformation of the leakage preventing part, wherein the deformation preventing part is formed at a connecting part between the first and second connecting members and further comprises a strength gusset for reinforcing elasticity of the leakage preventing part; and

a laundry-stuck preventing part extending inwardly from an interior side of the leakage preventing part around an entire inner circumference of the leakage preventing part to prevent the laundry from being stuck between the second and third openings.

2. (Previously Presented) The gasket as claimed in claim 1, the deformation preventing part comprising at least one ring rib protruding from an outer circumference of the leakage preventing part.

3. (Canceled).

4. (Currently Amended) The gasket as claimed in ~~claim 3~~claim 2, wherein the ring rib is formed on at least one of outer circumferences of the first and second connecting members.

5. (Previously Presented) The gasket as claimed in claim 4, wherein a connecting portion of the ring rib with the leakage preventing part is rounded.

6. (Previously Presented) The gasket as claimed in claim 4, wherein a vertical cross-section of the ring rib is semicircular.

7. (Previously Presented) The gasket as claimed in claim 4, wherein a vertical cross-section of the ring rib is polygonal.

8. (Canceled).

9. (Currently Amended) A drum washing machine comprising:

a cabinet having a first opening through which laundry is put in at a cabinet front side wherein a door is installed to open/close the first opening;

a tub installed in the cabinet to have a second opening at a tub front side corresponding to the first opening;

a drum installed in the tub to have a third opening at a drum front side corresponding to the second opening;

a rotation means having a rotational shaft penetrating a rear side of the tub to be connected to the drum; and

a gasket for preventing leakage of water, the gasket comprising:

a leakage preventing part having one end connected to a rim of the first opening and the other end connected to a rim of the second opening to prevent

water leakage wherein a portion between the one and the other ends of the leakage preventing part is bent to prevent shocks by vibrations of the tub and drum from appearing on the cabinet, the leakage preventing part including:

a first connecting member having one end connected to the first opening to horizontally extend toward the tub;

a second connecting member having one end connected to the other end of the first connecting member to radially extend toward the cabinet front side; and

a third connecting member having one end connected to the other end of the second connecting member and having the other end connected to the second opening;

a deformation preventing part connected to the leakage preventing part to reinforce a strength of the leakage preventing part and to prevent deformation of the leakage preventing part, wherein the deformation preventing part is formed at a connecting part between the first and second connecting members and further comprises a strength gusset for reinforcing elasticity of the leakage preventing part; and

a laundry-stuck preventing part extending inwardly from an interior side of the leakage preventing part around an entire inner circumference of the leakage preventing part to prevent the laundry from being stuck between the second and third openings.

10. (Previously Presented) The drum washing machine as claimed in claim 9, the deformation preventing part comprising at least one ring rib protruding from an outer circumference of the leakage preventing part.

11. (Canceled).

12. (Previously Presented) The drum washing machine as claimed in ~~claim 11~~claim 10, wherein the ring rib is formed on at least one of outer circumferences of the first and second connecting members.

13. (Previously Presented) The drum washing machine as claimed in claim 12, wherein a connecting portion of the ring rib with the leakage preventing part is rounded.

14. (Previously Presented) The drum washing machine as claimed in claim 12, wherein a vertical cross-section of the ring rib is semi-circular.

15. (Previously Presented) The drum washing machine as claimed in claim 12, wherein a vertical cross-section of the ring rib is polygonal.

16. (Canceled).

17. (Previously Presented) The gasket as claimed in claim 1, wherein the laundry-stuck preventing part is uniformly shaped along the entire inner circumference of the leakage preventing part.

18. (Previously Presented) The drum washing machine as claimed in claim 9, wherein the laundry-stuck preventing part is uniformly shaped along the entire inner circumference of the leakage preventing part.

19. (Previously Presented) The gasket as claimed in claim 1, wherein the deformation preventing part is formed on an exposed portion of the leakage preventing part.

20. (Previously Presented) The drum washing machine as claimed in claim 9, wherein the deformation preventing part is formed on an exposed portion of the leakage preventing part.